

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 6-14, 19-22, 24-34, 36-45, 47-52, 57-65, 70-78, 83-86, 88-98, 100-109, and 111-115 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 19,20, 24-30, 52, 57, 58, 65, 70, 71, 78, 83, 84, 88, 89 and 90-94 have been amended. Claims 2-5, 15-18, 23, 35, 46, 53-56, 66-69, 79-82, 87, 99 and 110 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13 and 52-76 were objected to for formal reasons. Independent claims 1, 52 and 65 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct the noted typographical errors, and all the claims were reviewed for typographical, grammatical and idiomatic errors and corrected as necessary. Along these lines, Applicant notes that dependent claims 24-28 and 88-92 have been amended for clarity and proper English usage to recite that the transmission assembly is movably coupled to the load applied portion, rather than coupled “with freedom”. This amendment is supported, for example, at page 12, line 13 et seq. of the present application. Applicant believes that these amendments are fully responsive to the Examiner’s concerns.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant’s admitted prior art (AAPA) shown in Fig. 25B of the application. Claims 14-17, 23, 52-54, 65-68, 78-81 and 87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of U.S. Patent 4,503,922 (Brosh). These rejections are respectfully traversed, and are believed to be further overcome by the foregoing amendments to the claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

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Regarding the rejections of dependent claims 2-4, 15-17, 23, 53, 54, 66-68, 79-81, and 87, these rejections are moot, since these claims have been cancelled.

Regarding the rejections of the independent claims, these claims have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of certain claims indicated at paragraph 6 of the Office Action to contain allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5, and its intervening claims 2 and 4. Consequently, claims 2, 4 and 5 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is now allowable, since it contains allowable subject matter, as are dependent claims 7, 9, 11 and 13, which depend from claim 1.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to incorporate all the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 18, and its intervening claims 15 and 17. Consequently, claims 15, 17 and 18 have been cancelled. Claim 14 is now allowable, since it contains allowable subject matter, as are dependent claims 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 51, which depend from claim 14.

Independent claim 52 has been amended to incorporate all the subject matter of allowable dependent claims 55 and 56, and intervening claim 53. Consequently, claims 53, 55 and 56 have been cancelled. Claim 52 is now allowable, since it contains allowable subject matter, as are dependent claims 58, 60, 62 and 64, which depend from claim 52.

Independent claim 65 has been amended to incorporate all the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 69, and its intervening claims 66 and 68. Consequently, claims 66, 68 and 69 have been cancelled. Claim 65 is now allowable, since it contains allowable subject matter, as are dependent claims 71, 73, 75 and 77, which depend from claim 65.

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Independent claim 78 has been amended to incorporate all the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 82, and its intervening claims 79 and 81. Consequently, claims 79, 81 and 82 have been cancelled. Claim 78 is now allowable, since it contains allowable subject matter, as are dependent claims 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113 and 115, which depend from claim 78.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 6, 19, 29, 57, 70, 83 and 93, which were indicated at paragraph 6 of the Office Action to contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their base claim and intervening claims. Consequently, these claims are now allowable, as are claims 8, 10, 12, 21, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37, 39, 42, 44, 48, 50, 59, 61, 63, 72, 74, 76, 85, 89, 91, 95, 97, 101, 103, 106, 108, 112, and 114, which depend from claims 6, 19, 29, 57, 70, 83 and 93, respectively.

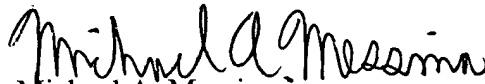
Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Messina".

Michael A. Messina

Registration No. 33,424

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
Phone: 202.756.8000 MAM:llg  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: March 17, 2005**

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